



FOUNDATION FOR
Women & Girls
with Blood Disorders

**FWGBD Annual Research Grant
2019 Request for Applications**

*Promoting XXcellence in Women's Health:
Optimal Management of Women and Girls with Blood Disorders*

Award Target: New Faculty or Fellows

Introduction

Menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause present unique challenges in women and girls with blood disorders. Undiagnosed, untreated blood disorders in women have medical consequences at every life stage. Delay and/or failure in diagnosing and treating blood disorders in women and girls are major public health problems, resulting in significant morbidity, reduced quality of life, days lost from work and school, unnecessary invasive procedures and high health care costs.

The experience and training of three internationally recognized physicians in women's blood disorders, Drs. Andra James, obstetrics and gynecology, Barbara Konkle and Roshni Kulkarni, hematology, underscored the need for a foundation focused on education and awareness; their discussions culminated in the Foundation for Women & Girls with Blood Disorders (FWGBD). In 2010, the FWGBD, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, was launched to serve as a single site, single source of information and education for physicians and healthcare providers.

FWGBD's Mission is to ensure that *all women and adolescent girls with blood disorders are correctly diagnosed and optimally treated and managed at every life stage* by:

- Raising awareness and educating healthcare providers including, but not limited to, pediatricians, adolescent medicine providers, family practice providers, internal medicine physicians, obstetricians & gynecologists, hematologists/oncologists, geriatricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses and social workers
- Translating and disseminating information and research to healthcare providers

The Foundation is dedicated to achieving the correct diagnosis and optimal treatment of blood disorders and accompanying reproductive problems in women and girls with bleeding disorders, von Willebrand disease (VWD), other factor deficiencies, platelet disorders, immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP); the thrombophilias; sickle cell disease (SCD) and sickle cell trait (SCT); and anemias.

FWGBD has been effectively gaining recognition and momentum as a key resource for providing education, guidance and expertise to physicians and other healthcare providers in the care of women and girls with blood disorders. FWGBD's Board and Medical Advisory Committee members (<http://www.fwgbd.org/about>) are leaders in clinical care and research in the area of women and blood disorders.



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The FWGBD Annual Research Grant Award

The overarching purpose of this award is twofold: to assist new faculty or fellows in conducting research in hematology and/or in obstetrics/gynecology in the area of blood disorders—**all blood disorders**—affecting women and girls; and to further sustain their interest in research that will ultimately improve the lives of women and girls with blood disorders.

The specific objectives of the 2019 *FWGBD Promoting XXcellence in Women's Health: Annual Research Grant Award* are:

- Create and sustain interest/knowledge of the next-generation of healthcare providers, i.e., physician-researchers working in Blood Disorders Affecting Women/Girls
- Foster collaboration between two core disciplines for WGBD—the Ob/Gyn and the Hematologist
- Provide an opportunity for junior faculty or fellows to conduct research in this important area

Timeline

Applications are due	April 26, 2019
Notification of awards	May 31, 2019
First grant award payment	June 28, 2019
Progress report due	January 3, 2020
Project final report due	June 27, 2020
Final grant award payment (contingent on report)	July 14, 2020

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must:

- Submit a complete application (see criteria below).



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- Be an MD or DO who is an early-stage investigator, or a current fellow in Hematology or Obstetrics/Gynecology.
- Have a research mentor who is senior faculty at the applicant's home institution for the duration of the award.
- Demonstrate active, working collaboration with a peer in the related discipline—Obstetrics/Gynecology for the Hematology applicant and Hematology for the Obstetrics/Gynecology applicant.
- Have an approved or pending IRB approval at the time of grant submission.

Available Funding

This award is intended as a supplemental non-salary research support grant, for a one-year period; **the award total is \$15,000**. This grant award cannot be used toward indirect costs. Extension to two years for expending the full one-year amount will be considered for reasons that will amplify or benefit the research project and its impact on health outcomes for women/girls with blood disorders.

The funding can be used toward:

- Statistical support
- Database development
- Technician
- Laboratory supplies

Other non-salary items related to the research project will be considered and are subject to approval by the FWGBD Award Review Committee.

Responsibilities and Conditions

1. Grant Agreement: Upon acceptance of the research grant, the awardee and FWGBD will sign a formal Grant Agreement prepared by FWGBD's legal counsel.
2. Acknowledgment: Any publication, thesis, or presentation reporting the results and/or analyses of the research award shall explicitly acknowledge the support of the Foundation for Women & Girls with Blood Disorders, as outlined in the signed Grant Agreement. Awardees agree to provide FWGBD with a copy of any publication, abstract, or presentation reporting the results and/or analyses of the award project.



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3. Rights and Welfare of Human Subjects: The recipient is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects in any clinical research activities involving the FWGBD awardee.
4. Progress Report: Awardee is required to submit a Six-Month Progress Report (of 2-3 pages) and a Financial Report from the showing that the grant funds have been applied to the specified, covered items in the grant award. The exact deadline for submission of this report will be listed in the awardee's Grant Agreement. Upon receipt and approval of the Progress Report by the FWGBD Research Award Review Committee, FWGBD will issue the final check representing full payment of the award to the recipient.
5. Final Report: Awardee is required to submit a Final Narrative and Financial Report on the 12-month anniversary of the awarding of the Grant as described in the Grant Agreement and by the date listed therein.

Proposal Preparation and Submission

Candidates must submit completed applications no later than 11:59 PM (EDT) on April 26, 2019, in one PDF document to: kfunkhouser@fwgbd.org

Completed applications must include the following:

1. Award Application Form - available at fwgbd.org/fwgbd-research-RFA
2. Candidate's Biosketch - Standard NIH format
3. Research Mentor's Biosketch - Standard NIH format
4. Research Mentor's Letter of Support/Statement, including a clear delineation of his/her role in the Project and affirming that the Mentee has a significant, specified portion of protected time to complete the research. (1-page max in 12-point font/.5" margins)
5. Letter of Support from collaborating specialist—Ob/Gyn or Hematologist
6. Personal statement from applicant providing a clear delineation of his/her role in the Project and outlining career development plan, significance of this research area regarding career, and impact of Award (2-page limit in 11-point Arial font with .5 inch margins)



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7. Research Proposal (2-page limit in 11-point Arial font, excluding references):
 - i. Scientific Question
 - ii. Background/Need
 - iii. Methods/Study Design
 - iv. Anticipated Results
 - v. Expected Timeline (through completion date of the project)
 - vi. Significance for W/G with blood disorders
 - vii. References

8. Budget (in Excel spreadsheet)

Criteria for Assessing Applications

- The proposed research project's significance to blood disorders in women and girls
- The interest of the applicant in blood disorders in women/girls as a core area of their career in Hematology or Ob/Gyn
- The quality of the research project
- The research mentorship available and provided to the candidate
- Roles of the Mentor and the Awardee/Mentee are clearly delineated
- Having the recommended cross-discipline collaboration and the quality and level of this collaboration between Hematologist and Ob/Gyn
- Qualifications, experience and level of involvement

To reiterate, interdisciplinary research proposals involving collaboration between a reproductive health physician and a hematologist are preferred.
